

Richmond Dispatch.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 1882.

Irredeemable and Other Greenbacks.

In response to an interrogatory addressed to it by the Dispatch, the Whig says:

"We assure our contemporary that we are the same lovers and champions of greenbacks that we were in 1878. As to the gentlemen named, we have no reason to believe that either one has changed his views. But we wish to call the attention of our contemporary to the fact that even the enemies of the 'greenbacks' have conceded to them, 'practically,' what the latter demanded. In 1878 'greenbacks' claimed that if the greenback were made receivable for all dues, including customs, it would be equal to gold and silver. Since then, 'practically,' the greenback has been made equal to gold and silver by the order from Secretary Sherman to receive them for customs duties. The silver certificate has also been made receivable for the volume of currency was also stopped, and expansion ensued 'practically,' not only by the release of 'greenbacks,' the remonetization and re-issuance of silver, but by the issue of a flood of gold and silver certificates—almost enough to cover the country—keeping down the value of the currency to one dollar and two cents. Moreover, the stringent times which demanded inflation as a remedy found further relief in the 'turn' of the balance of trade in favor of this country; and thus, and by these means—the 'greenbacks' were largely conceded and vindicated—the circumstances were greatly changed from what they were in 1878-79 and the years immediately following. With a recurrence of a similar crisis we shall be foremost in advocacy of a similar remedy—a remedy which we believe would have brought prompt relief where we had to await the healing of time and chance."

"As to national banks, we still entertain the belief that they have cured the country and the people in the course of their establishment as permanent institutions. Their power for evil has been largely curtailed; and we know now, at this late day, that to change from them to any other system—old or new—would bring some of the very same evils which accompanied their earlier history. But we are far from being devoted to these banks and all their ways."

Now, the strange thing about the above is that it formulates the creed of those persons in Virginia who most bitterly opposed in 1878 the teachings of the flat-money advocates. The venerable editor of the Dispatch was one of the earliest, most consistent, and most zealous advocates of the remonetization of silver. He also advocated the policy of making greenbacks receivable for customs duties. The Dispatch also, as long ago as 1870, opposed the policy of the contraction of the volume of the national currency, and predicted that if resumption of specie payments should ever be brought about it would not be by contraction, claiming that this last policy would cause a panic and defer the resumption of specie payments indefinitely.

There must have been some difference of opinion between the Dispatch and the Whig in 1878; and this difference the Whig forgets to remember. The Dispatch opposed flat money—irredeemable treasury notes—a circulating medium which was to derive its value from the Government imprimatur. The Whig advocated this worthless currency—this irredeemable trash—contending, unless our memory is at fault, that it was not necessary for the Government to make any provision for the redemption of its notes. So it will be seen that the Whig hasn't yet answered our question. We desire to know—if the Whig is willing to tell—whether that journal is still an advocate of an irredeemable paper currency—a currency secured in no manner whatever and depending for its value upon the mere fiat of the Government issuing it?

The Liability of Common Carriers.

Every Virginia man must feel a sincere desire that the cities within our borders should all prosper. They have to make a fearful fight, at best, against northern competition, and to encounter them in any way is bound to work disaster. A drawback of this sort is covered by Senate bill No. 105, entitled "A Bill Prohibiting Common Carriers from Limiting or Restricting their Liability as Such." The text is as follows: "Be it enacted, etc., that hereafter it shall not be lawful for any common carrier to limit or restrict its liability as such common carrier, by means of any note, agreement, special contract, or otherwise."

The question is to allow the shipper to take the option of an "insured" or "released" rate of freight. Should this bill become a law every railway or other common carrier in the State would be compelled to charge the "insured" rate on all the freight they received from shippers in our limits; and this means that Baltimore and other cities north, where this option prevails, would beat us to death on the trade especially south of us—a trade of such vital importance to our cities.

It certainly does no harm to anybody to allow the citizen to make any contract he pleases about the disposition of his own property. When he takes the "released" rate of freight he secures a very low one. He certainly ought to know his own business better than anybody else; and we do hope that our Legislature will think a long time before they destroy this option to the shipper. The matter much more concerns the shipper than the carrier.

The Blair Bill.

It was stated in the Dispatch of yesterday that the Democrats in the House of Delegates voted in a body on Friday in favor of Mr. LYONS'S motion to dismiss the resolution instructing our senators in Congress to vote for the BLAIR bill. The fact is the motion to dismiss was ruled out of order, and the question was never taken on it.

Again: Although most of the Democrats (not all of them by any means) voted for one or another of the rejected amendments, yet when the resolution came up on its passage, nine out of ten of the Democrats voted for it.

The Democrats in the General Assembly must have a good record, and we are glad to be able to make the corrections noted above, as we do at the request of a member of the House.

Marriage-Licence Fees.

BATON ROUGE, La., January 21.—Since the assembling of the Maryland Legislature there have been several efforts made to secure a reduction or abolition of marriage-licence fees. To-day a remarkable memorial was presented, numerous signed, asking that the fee be abolished. It sets forth that matrimony is a political and social evil, and that the law which imposes a fee is demoralizing, and that there will have a tendency to encourage the social evil. Further, it is urged that matrimony, to a greater or less extent, is a means to lessen crime, and that according to all statistics it prolongs life. Finally, it is held matrimony is the foundation of society, and that any law that tends to check it is monstrous in its conception and oppressive in its action.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1882.

SENATE.

Mr. ELLIOTT in the chair. No prayer. Mr. DROGOS offered a preamble and joint resolutions (which he over and over instructed that our senators in Congress be instructed to use their utmost efforts to procure a protective import duty levied on all sumac grown or manufactured in foreign countries.

REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES.

Senate bill 153, providing that where notes, drafts, etc., fall due on Sunday they shall be paid on Monday instead of Saturday.

Senate bill 110 (Mr. CHRISTIAN'S), to amend and recast section 1 of chapter 77 of the Acts of 1878-80, in regard to the protection of game.

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. FLETCHER: Petition of citizens of Accomac in regard to the taking and catching of oysters in this State, so as to permit dredging and except in the rivers and creeks, and in Accomac sound, hearing from the south end of Watts's Island a southeasterly course to the main land.

By Mr. RICE: Bill to provide for the erection of a court-house and other public buildings for the county of Norfolk on a site within the limits of said county, and to repeal section 4 of an act entitled an act to provide for taking the sense of the people of Norfolk county in regard to changing the site of the court-house of said county, approved March 6, 1880.

COMMON CARRIERS.

Senate bill prohibiting common carriers from limiting or restricting their liability as such (Mr. SMITH'S bill) was, after much discussion, ordered to engrossment.

ADJOURNMENT.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES. The House met at 10 o'clock. Speaker FOWLER in the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR. A message was received from the Governor transmitting a report from the Second Auditor relative to the condition of the Miller fund, and also a report from Colonel John A. Parker, agent, etc., in reference to the State of Virginia against the United States.

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. STEVENS: A bill to incorporate the Norfolk and Gloucester Steamboat Company.

By Mr. KELAM: A bill to legalize the sale and conveyance of Oak-Grove church, in the District of Atlantic, in the county of Accomac.

By Mr. JOHNSON: A bill to incorporate the Bank of Buchanan.

By Mr. FRAZIER: A bill for the relief of J. K. Gilliat & Co., of London, England.

By Mr. BAILEY: A bill to authorize the corporation of Fredericksburg to establish a poor-house and grounds outside of its corporate limits.

By Mr. T. W. DAVIS: Petition of the Coopers' Protective Union, of Richmond, in relation to the employment of convicts by contract.

By Mr. GRAYES: A bill to amend the act of the Superintendent of Public Buildings, and is hereby, instructed to report to the House of Delegates—first, what is the approximate value of the Public-warehouse lot and the old Arsenal lot; second, what necessity there is for continuing the Public warehouse; third, whether in his judgment it would be to the interest of the State to sell said property.

BILLS PASSED.

House bill 98, requiring the county judge of Norfolk county to submit the question of continuing or repealing the fence law to the voters of the county, and in said county upon certain conditions.

Senate bill 120, to incorporate the Holston Iron and Steel Works.

Senate bill 166, to incorporate Cobb's Island Seaside Company.

House bill No. 13, to incorporate the Norfolk and Caroline Turnpike Company.

House bill No. 69, to appropriate a portion of the glebe fund of Northampton county to build a poor-house.

House bill No. 70, to authorize the Board of Supervisors of Isle of Wight county to borrow money, and to issue bonds for the purpose of building a bridge over Pagan creek, in said county.

House bill No. 63, to provide for the election of two commissioners of the revenue for the counties of Fluvanna and Stafford.

House bill No. 166, to authorize the St. John's Episcopal church, of Richmond, to borrow money.

PROTECTION OF FISH.

The following bill, of which Mr. NIXON, of Prince George, was the patron, came up on its second reading:

1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia, That section 1 of chapter 212 of the Acts of the General Assembly, approved March 21st, 1871, entitled an act for the protection of fish in the waters of the Commonwealth, be, and it is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

2. This act shall be in force from its passage.

The bill gave rise to quite an animated discussion, and was participated in by most of the members whose constituents were likely to be affected by it.

Numerous changes were made by inserting localities other than those named in the bill, among them the cities of Richmond and Manchester, and finally one to include all the cities of the State.

At this point Mr. GIBBS, the member from Henry, thinking, no doubt, that the whole question was rather fishy, moved to dismiss the bill; which motion prevailed by a large majority.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of bills on the calendar, and after appropriately disposing of several adjourned.

Latest from the Survivors of the Jeannette.

WASHINGTON, January 20.—The Secretary of the Navy has just received the following telegram from Engineer Melville, in the lost Arctic exploring steamer Jeannette:

To the Secretary of the Navy Department, Washington, D. C., United States of America:

Sir—Melville, Danenhower, and eleven men all well. Melville returned to Arctic ocean, found logs-boats, instruments, and four records left by De Long. No tidings of second cutter, Lieutenant Chipp. Search continued during the winter by Cossack commandant of Behm and Jakutsk, under direction of General Tcherni. Word from Kolyma river that no boat had arrived to date, November 19th. I am acquainted with the country where De Long and party are, and request orders to remain with two men to renew the search in March. Danenhower and nine men to return to the United States, Danenhower's sight partially recovered.

MELVILLE.

How She Made Watches.

A young lady at Botetourt Springs has capped the climax in watchmaking. While she was in a store in that neighborhood a few days ago a young man with a brand new gold watch and chain entered, took his watch out of his pocket, and proposed to her if she would hold it for him for a length of ten minutes she might have it. She held the watch out the required time, and smilingly put it in her pocket. Another young man present told her that if she would hold his watch out fifteen minutes she might also have it. She quietly held it for him in her hand, and to his dismay, held it out fifteen minutes, and put the watch in her pocket. Thus two young men go watchless, while a young lady who recently had none now has two. So note it be.—Salem Register.

P. ENGLAND, Hot Springs, Ark., says: I make no war on the waters, or physicians, but say all praise to S. & S. for curing me after both had failed. Price \$1 and \$1.75 per bottle.

To the Virginia Bondholders.

Editors Dispatch: I don't want to burden your columns with my views, and at the same time I do not fancy and I don't want to support the short letter I wrote you would be made the subject of severe criticism. But as it has been I will, with your permission, give to the critics another crumb. If the question ever comes up in form before the people of Virginia the bondholders should hear from me. In the measure we propose to stand on a shield-line once in a while. It is just to all that they should know the views of those who do not chop logic, but go straight to their conclusions on broad principles; and you may rest assured that the people of this State would vote down any proposition to pay the bond debt ten to one, or more.

I beg leave to cite the Constitution of the United States, Article 3, section 2: "The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work the corruption of blood or forfeiture of estate during the life of the person so attainted."

The Constitution also provides for amendment. I do not propose to discuss the legality of emancipation nor the modes adopted.

The creditors of the States made before the war and now make their contracts with reference to these clauses in the Constitution of the United States, with reference to the contingencies that overtake nations and States, with reference to the good faith not only in the States, but in the Federal Government, which the creditors of the Commonwealth loaned their money, they did so knowing that a very large portion of the property of the State consisted in negro slaves; knowing, too, that that property was secured by the Constitution of the United States from the position of the Federal Government, which the creditors of the Commonwealth loaned their money, they did so knowing that a very large portion of the property of the State consisted in negro slaves; knowing, too, that that property was secured by the Constitution of the United States from the position of the Federal Government, which the creditors of the Commonwealth loaned their money, they did so knowing that a very large portion of the property of the State consisted in negro slaves; 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